



The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is now accepting applications for the Lawns to Legumes program, which aims to increase residential habitat for at-risk pollinators across the state. Lawns to Legumes offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns.

Minnesota residents can now apply for individual support grants, which offer up to \$300 in reimbursement funding to cover costs associated with establishing pollinator habitats in residential yards. Applicants who qualify for reimbursement are expected to attend a [workshop](#) to better ensure project success.

How to apply: Apply online at [Blue Thumb's website](#). Applications will be accepted through February 15, 2022. Funding decisions and all notifications will be emailed in March 2022. Grant recipients have until December 15, 2022 to install their projects.

Am I eligible?

Anyone is welcome to use the [Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide](#) or [attend a workshop](#) developed for this program to help plan a pollinator habitat project.

Minnesota residents anywhere in the state who have an area at their home that can be used for outdoor planting can apply for a combination of technical assistance (workshops, coaching) and cost-share funding. Proximity to areas where the Rusty patched bumblebee is likely to be present is one factor considered when awarding reimbursement grants.

What does this program do?

Lawns to Legumes offers workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns.

The program also includes demonstration neighborhoods, which are pollinator programs run by local governments and nonprofit organizations with support from BWSR, and a public education campaign to raise awareness about creating pollinator habitat. BWSR partners with Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water to administer the program. For further program details, see BWSR's [website](#).

Why does this matter?

Minnesota is home to more than 450 native bee species. Pollinators also include butterflies, moths, beetles and native flies. All play a key role in pollinating many food crops and native plants, but populations have significantly declined worldwide in recent years. Population decline can be attributed to habitat loss and lack of related nutrition for pollinators, as well as pesticide use and pathogens.

The program aims to protect the federally endangered state bee, the Rusty patched bumblebee, and other at-risk pollinators. Even relatively small plantings of native flowers can help create conditions that are valuable to pollinators and can help build important habitat corridors.

